

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA

KIRK ROBINSON,

Plaintiff,

vs.

CORDONIER, Unit Manager; DEVRIES, Case
Manager; and ROBERT MADSEN, Deputy
Director,

Defendants.

8:23CV535

MEMORANDUM AND ORDER

This matter is before the Court on Plaintiff's Motion for Leave to Proceed in Forma Pauperis ("IFP"). [Filing 8](#). The Court has received a certified copy of Plaintiff's trust account information. [Filing 8](#), Case No. 8:23CV538. Plaintiff is permitted to proceed IFP.

Prisoner plaintiffs are required to pay the full amount of the Court's \$350.00 filing fee by making monthly payments to the Court, even if the prisoner is proceeding IFP. [28 U.S.C. § 1915\(b\)](#). The Prison Litigation Reform Act ("PLRA") "makes prisoners responsible for their filing fees the moment the prisoner brings a civil action or files an appeal." *In re Tyler*, 110 F.3d 528, 529–30 (8th Cir. 1997); *Jackson v. N.P. Dodge Realty Co.*, 173 F. Supp. 2d 951 (D. Neb. 2001). Thus, a prisoner does not avoid paying the Court's \$350.00 filing fee by proceeding IFP, but rather is merely permitted to pay the filing fee in installments pursuant to the formula in [28 U.S.C. § 1915\(b\)](#). However, as explained below, application of this formula to Plaintiff's average monthly account balance would result in an installment payment in excess of the \$350.00 filing fee due to Plaintiff's available assets, and Plaintiff, therefore, must be required to pay the \$350.00 filing fee in full, rather than in installments.

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(1), Plaintiff must pay an initial partial filing fee in the amount of 20 percent of the greater of Plaintiff's average monthly account balance or average monthly deposits for the six months preceding the filing of the Complaint. During the past six months, Plaintiff's average monthly balance was \$49,601.01 and his average monthly deposits were \$0.00. Therefore, pursuant to the formula set forth in 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(1), the initial partial filing fee would be \$9,920.20, based on an average monthly account balance of \$49,601.01, which is more than the \$350.00 filing fee for this matter.¹ However, "[i]n no event shall the filing fee collected exceed the amount of fees permitted by statute for the commencement of a civil action" 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(3). Accordingly, Plaintiff shall be required to pay a \$350.00 filing fee at the outset of the case, as mandated by 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b). *Ashley v. Dilworth*, 147 F.3d 715, 716 (8th Cir. 1998) ("The purpose of the Prison Litigation Reform Act was to require all prisoner-litigants to pay filing fees in full, with the only issue being whether the inmate pays the entire filing fee at the initiation of the proceeding or in installments over a period of time.").

Plaintiff is advised he will remain responsible for the entire filing fee, as long as he is a prisoner, even if the case is dismissed at some later time. See *In re Tyler*, 110 F.3d at 529–30; *Jackson*, 173 F. Supp. 2d at 951.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

1. Plaintiff's Motion for Leave to Proceed IFP, [Filing 8](#), is granted.
2. Plaintiff must pay the entire filing fee of \$350.00 within 30 days unless the Court extends the time in which he has to pay in response to a written motion.

¹ The Court's filing fee of \$405.00 for civil actions includes the \$350.00 filing fee set out by 28 U.S.C. § 1914(a) and the additional \$55.00 administrative fee required when filing all civil actions. See 28 U.S.C. § 1914, *Judicial Conference Schedule of Fees*, No. 14 (Administrative fee for filing a civil action, suit, or proceeding in a district court increased to \$55 effective Dec. 1, 2023). Prisoners granted IFP status are not required to pay the \$55.00 administrative fee under the PLRA.

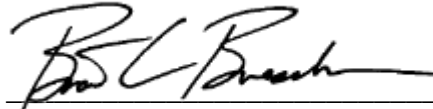
3. The Clerk's office is directed to send a copy of this order to the appropriate official at Plaintiff's institution.

4. The Clerk's office is directed to set a pro se case management deadline in this case using the following text: **[30 days]**: \$350.00 filing fee payment due.

5. Plaintiff is advised that, following payment of the filing fee, the next step in Plaintiff's case will be for the Court to conduct an initial review of Plaintiff's claims to determine whether summary dismissal is appropriate under [28 U.S.C. § 1915\(e\)\(2\)](#). The Court will conduct this initial review in its normal course of business.

Dated this 4th day of January, 2024.

BY THE COURT:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. C. Buescher', written over a horizontal line.

Brian C. Buescher
United States District Judge